

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been amended and new claims 7 and 8 have been presented. Accordingly, claims 1-8 are currently pending.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority. Submitted herewith is the certified copy of the priority document, JP 2000-384902. However, note that the priority certificate number indicated on the PTOL-326 is incomplete because the "2" at the end of the number is missing. Applicants respectfully request correction.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Onodera et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,640,544. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and for the following reasons.

The document information management method and system of the present invention enables a document input from a client

PC 30 through a web browser 330 to be stored in a document database 50. The document is stored in the form of one that can be looked up or referenced, or alternatively in the form of one that can be edited, in which case it can be offered to a user who desires to edit the document and re-utilize it. See page 14, line 20, page 15, line 5 of the specification. A document utilization/management program 140, shown in Fig. 1, for example, records the history of how the document information is utilized and manages the utilization state of the document information when the document information is re-utilized. See page 15, lines 12-23 of the specification, for example.

Figure 8 of the present application shows an example of the document utilization information management that is updated by the document utilization management program 140. As shown in the example, the "review submission term" is set to two weeks after the date of utilization and the "review completion term" is set to one month after the date of utilization. As amended, claim 5 states that the time limit is set to complete a review of the re-utilized document information when the document information is re-utilized.

In Onodera, on the other hand, the system is provided with means for reading/writing document data asynchronously between computer systems connected with a communication line so that the document data can be displayed at a high speed. Onodera does not disclose tracing and managing the utilization state of document information when the document information is re-utilized, as in the present invention. Accordingly, the reference does not render obvious the invention as set forth in claims 1-6 or new claims 7 and 8. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,  
Applicants contend that the above-identified application is  
now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration  
and reexamination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Mattingly", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

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